

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 3, 4 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, amend Claims 5, 7, and 9, and add Claims 10-13 as follows.

All pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Original) An image printing and reading apparatus comprising:
 - a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path;
 - a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path;
 - a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning; and
 - a moving unit to move said reading unit and said reference white board to a document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other hand, to move said reading unit and said reference white board to a retreat position in which the influence of ambient light is reduced at least upon execution of prescanning.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said retreat position is a position within a casing of said image printing and reading apparatus and away from said document reading position.

Claims 3 and 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, claim 1, further comprising a detection unit to detect occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet path and said document path, wherein if said detection unit has not detected the occurrence of jam, said reading unit executes the prescanning.

6. (Original) A prescanning method in an image printing and reading apparatus including: a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path; a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path; and a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning, said method comprising:

a step of moving said reading unit and said reference white board to a document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other hand, to move said reading unit and said reference white board to a retreat position in which the influence of ambient light is reduced at least upon execution of prescanning; and

a step of executing the prescanning when said reading unit and said reference white board are in said retreat position.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5 6, wherein the retreat position is a position within a casing of said image printing and reading apparatus and away from said document reading position.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 8; claim 6~~, further comprising a step of detecting occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if the occurrence of jam has not been detected, the prescanning is executed.

10. (New) An image printing and reading apparatus comprising:
a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path;

a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path,
having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path;
a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit
upon execution of prescanning;
a moving unit to move said reading unit and said reference white board to a
document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other
hand, to move said reading unit and said reference white board in a direction deviated from
a color material discharging direction at least when said printing unit executes printing; and

a detection unit to detect occurrence of jam in the common path belonging
to said print sheet path and said document path;

wherein if said detection unit has not detected the occurrence of jam, said reading unit executes the prescanning.

11. (New) A prescanning image in an image printing and reading apparatus including: a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path; a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path; a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning, said method comprising;

a step of moving said reading unit and said reference white board to a document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other hand, moving said reading unit and said reference white board in a direction deviated from a color material discharging direction at least when said printing unit executes printing;

a step of performing the prescanning when said reading unit and said reference white board are in said retreat position; and

a step of detecting occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if the occurrence of jam has not been detected, the prescanning is executed.

12. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a detection unit to detect occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if said detection unit has not detected the occurrence of jam, said reading unit executes the prescanning.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising a step of detecting occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if the occurrence of jam has not been detected, the prescanning is executed.